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ABSTRACT

This handbook is designed to introduce adults in Girl Scouting to the rewards, pleasures, and challenges of working with girls who have disabilities. Included in the book are definitions of various disabling conditions, ways in which activities can be adapted, and behavioral expectations. Also included are activities for simulation of the disabling conditions. Chapter 1 of the handbook discusses diversity in girl scouting, the continuum of differences in learning, communication, motor and physical ability, emotional adjustment, sensory abilities, legal definitions of disabilities, and inclusion in girl scouting. Chapter 2 provides strategies for preparing leaders, troops, and the meeting environment for including a girl scout with a disability. Key considerations for meeting sites are outlined, and adaptations for activities are provided. Chapter 3 describes 12 simulations for creating disability awareness. Chapters 4-10 each provide information on specific types of disabilities, including learning disabilities, communication disorders, mental retardation, behavior disorders, hearing impairments, visual impairments, and physical and health impairments. Chapters discuss myths and stereotypes, characteristics, and specific adaptations, and include a list of famous people with the targeted disability. An appendix includes an overview of federal disability laws and resource information. (Contains 18 references.) (CR)

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